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Please amend the subject application as follows:

## Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of claims:

- 1. (Currently Amended) An immortalized human undifferentiated cardiomyocyte cell line, wherein the cell line (a) expresses  $\beta$ -myosin heavy chain, connexin-43, and desmin, (b) does not exhibit obvious voltage-activated conductances in wholecell voltage-clamp recordings, (c) comprises a replicable vector that expresses SV-40 large T antigen, and wherein the cell line (d) produced by a method comprising the step of fusing a post-mitotic primary non-immortalized human cardiomyocyte obtained from adult human human fibroblast, heart tissue with a fibroblast
  - (a) (i) having been treated with ethidium bromide;
  - (b) (ii) comprising a replicable vector expressing SV40 large T antigen which confers immortality on a cell comprising same; and

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(c) (iii) being free of mitochondrial DNA.

- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Previously Presented) An immortalized human undifferentiated cardiomyocyte cell line, wherein the cardiomyocyte cell line is designated AC16 (ATCC Designation No. PTA-1500).
- 4. (Previously Presented) An immortalized human undifferentiated cardiomyocyte cell line, wherein the cardiomyocyte cell line is designated AC10 (ATCC Designation No. PTA-1501).
- 5. (Previously Presented) An immortalized human undifferentiated cardiomyocyte cell line, wherein the cardiomyocyte cell line is designated RL14 (ATCC Designation No. PTA-1499).
- 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Canceled)
- 8. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing a human undifferentiated immortalized cell line derived from a post-mitotic primary cell culture which comprises:
  - (a) providing a cell culture of human primary post-mitotic cells;

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- (b) providing a human fibroblast cell
   line which
  - (i) has been transfected with a replicable nucleic acid vector expressing SV40 large T antigen which immortalizes the fibroblast cell line, and
  - (ii) has been depleted of its
    mitochondrial DNA;
- (c) co-culturing the human fibroblast cell line of step (b) with the cell culture of step (a) under appropriate conditions so that cell fusion occurs;
- (d) growing the fused cells from step (c) in a selection medium which selects for cells with mitochondrial DNA; and
- (e) selecting cells from step (d) which
  - (i) contain a replicable vector that expresses SV-40 large T antigen, and
  - (ii) express one or more genes
     specifically expressed by the
     primary post-mitotic cell of
     step (a),

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so as to prepare the human immortalized cell line.

- 9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the cell culture of human primary non-proliferating cells in step (a) is a cell culture of primary human cardiac cells, primary human skeletal myoblast cells, human neuronal cells, or primary human osteoblast cells.
- 10. (Canceled)
- 11. (Canceled)
- 12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the appropriate conditions for cell fusion in step (c) comprise incubation for about one minute in a 50% PEG solution.
- 13.-19. (Canceled)